

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: **88108611.0**

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: **B65H 33/18**

(22) Date of filing: **30.05.88**

(30) Priority: **10.06.87 IT 2086187**

(43) Date of publication of application:
14.12.88 Bulletin 88/50

(84) Designated Contracting States:
CH DE ES FR GB LI

(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
10.10.90 Bulletin 90/41

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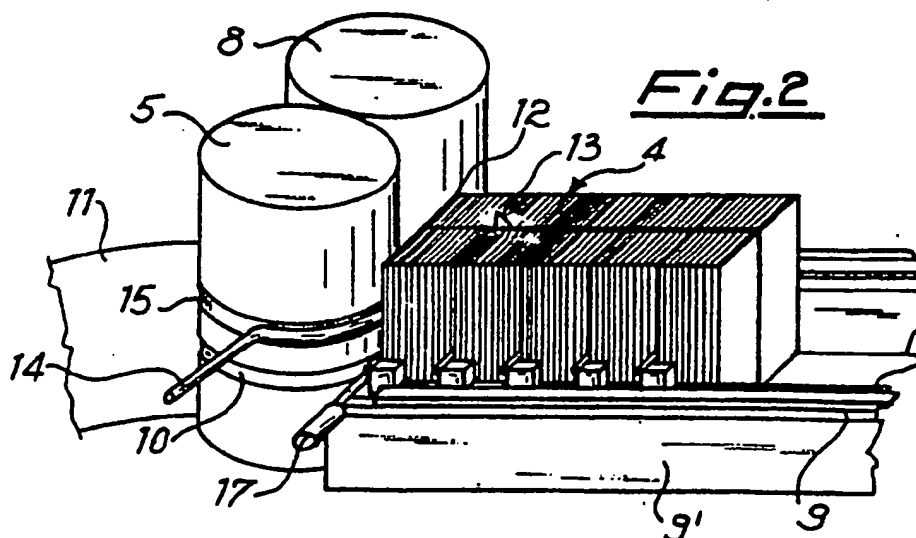
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(54) **A method and device for separating a predetermined number of flat objects, such as sheets of paper.**

(57) Downstream of a paper leaf stacking machine, e.g. a paper napkin folder, there is a device comprising supports (2) on each of which is mounted at least one leaf separating finger (1).

Each support is kept, by a stop (3), in a fixed position corresponding to that in which the paper folder forms and deposits the folded leaves (4). After a predetermined number of leaves have been

deposited, the stop is disengaged and the finger is snapped in between one sheet and the next and so advances at least part of the way with the stack of folded sheets. At a certain point of the path, each pack of leaves, as marked by two successive fingers, is lifted out by a forceps or the like and each support is returned to its starting position.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 88 10 8611

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 4, no. 33 (M-3)(515), 21 March 1980; & JP-A-557165 (ORION) 18.01.1980 ---	1-3,9-13	B 65 H 33/18
Y	FR-A-2 398 007 (HIMMELSBACH PAPIERWARENFABRIK) * figures; page 3, line 16 - page 4, line 17 * ---	1-3,9-13	
A	GB-A-2 161 147 (PAPER CONVERTING MACHINE CO.) * figures 1,2,5,7,11; claim 1 * -----	1,4,9,16	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B 65 H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 19-07-1990	Examiner FUCHS H. X. J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			